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**Board of Trustees**  
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July 11, 2023

Commissioner Dan Watermeier  
Chair, Nebraska Public Service Commission  
1200 N Street, Suite 300  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Mr. Watermeier,

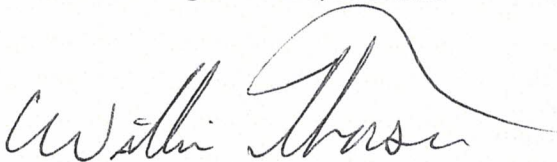
As you are aware, the digital divide between rural and urban areas has become a significant barrier to connecting communities to the resources and tools they need to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Unfortunately, here in the Village of Mead, we also are impacted by this divide and the lack of access to reliable internet connections. As a community, we have looked to find a solution to this challenge and we believe that the project submitted by Charter Communications through the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program (NBBP) will help to bridge the digital divide that has persisted for so long in the Village.

Without proper access to broadband internet, families in Mead are unable to leverage the wealth of educational resources available online or take advantage of digital tools that would help them to acquire skills for their future success. We also fear that our small businesses will continue to struggle to expand without access to reliable internet connections making our village's opportunities for economic success limited. Charter has the industry knowledge and workforce to help us solve this.

Charter has proven to be an important partner here in Nebraska and they already serve over 167,000 residents across the state. Additionally, in 2022 alone, Charter extended its network to reach an additional 4,000 homes and businesses in Nebraska. Their commitment to supporting and connecting rural communities like ours has been especially encouraging.

Investing in rural broadband expansion is an investment in the future of our students, businesses, and communities across Nebraska and we hope that you consider and approve Charter Communications' application for the NBBP grant quickly so that we can bring our communities into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Sincerely,  
For the Village of Mead, Nebraska



William Thorson, Chairman



# *Yutan Public Schools*

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Commissioner Dan Watermeier  
Chair, Nebraska Public Service Commission  
1200 N Street, Suite 300  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Mr. Watermeier,

The last few years have revealed how important reliable access to high-speed internet is to Nebraskans, especially our students. As Superintendent of Yutan Public Schools, I am concerned about how the digital divide is negatively impacting our students who lack internet access at home. Yutan teachers and parents all want their children to have every opportunity to grow through their education, and ensuring they can all enjoy a steady internet connection will go a long way to making that a reality.

I believe it is vital that Nebraska work with internet service providers that have a long track record of success, which is why I support a public-private partnership with Charter Communications through the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program (NBBP). I'm confident Charter will deliver for Saunders County and Yutan Public Schools.

Charter already has a footprint in Nebraska. With 167,000 customers and counting, Nebraskans have shown that they trust Charter to deliver fast, reliable, and affordable connectivity. Charter has also continuously demonstrated a strong commitment to expanding their network to reach more underserved and unserved Americans. In 2022, Charter expanded their Nebraska network to reach an additional 4,000 homes, and their experience building out network infrastructure in rural communities is unmatched.

Ultimately, Charter can provide Saunders County – and in turn, Yutan Public Schools – the widespread access to broadband we need to provide crucial growth opportunities not only to our students, but to every resident who still lives on the wrong side of the digital divide. I encourage you to approve Charter's application to the NBBP as an immediate and impactful investment in future generations.

Sincerely,

Rex Pfeil

Superintendent  
Yutan Public Schools